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Butler's Bible Work.

The Bible Work: The Old Testament. Vol. III. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles XI., 1 Kings I-XI., 2 Chronicles I-IX. Israel under Joshua, the Judges, Saul, David and Solomon. The Revised Text, arranged in sections; with comments selected from the choicest, most illuminating and helpful thought of the Christian Centuries, taken from nearly three hundred scholarly writers. With illustrations, maps and diagrams. Prepared by J. Glentworth Butler, D.D. New York: Funk and Wagnalls. 1889. Pp. 635. Price, \$4.00.

This book is difficult to characterize in spite of its voluminous title-page. The author must have thought so too, when he gave it the cumbrous and meaningless title of "Bible-work." It is really a kind of thesaurus of comment and opinion on the Scriptures. A good deal of the author's own writing is found therein as well as that of men unknown to fame, though abundant excerpts are made also from first-rate scholars. Even recent periodical literature is laid under contribution. It would have been gratifying, if the books from which the extracts were taken, as well as the authors' names, had been cited, in order that, if necessary, the student could study the passage in its context. After one has obtained and used a good commentary, it would not be money thrown away to buy this work, if the buyer has the good sense to refuse to let it do his thinking for him. Apart from this danger, he will find it a help by no means inconsiderable.

A Theory of Religious Evolution.

Aryas, Semites and Jews, Jehovah and the Christ. A record of spiritual advance from the Household or Personal God of the Semite Abram, and from Jehovah, the tutelary or national God of the Israelites, to the Universal Father revealed by Jesus the Christ; with the contracts made between the Household God and Abram; the tutelary God, Jehovah and the Israelites; and between our Father in Heaven and all Mankind . . . also the circumstances, incidents, and events attending the preparation for and the promulgation of the Second Revelation. By Lorenzo Burge; 12 mo., pp. 308. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1889. Price, \$1.50.

The title-page of this book as quoted above is a sufficient revelation of its contents and contains the ablest criticism thereof. The writer in a previous volume, called "Pre-glacial Man and the Aryan Race," narrated, largely from the contents of his inner consciousness, the history of the human race from B. C. 32,500 to B. C. 8,000. This book continues the history. The only valuable portions of the work are quotations from the Old and New Testaments. The theory which it is written to advance is utterly baseless. The wonder is that any sensible man could have imagined it or, having imagined it, could have further imagined arguments which he imagined likely to support it.